

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 /033 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON:DLD
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON
S/NM:PWOODRING
P:DTICE

-----111337 121929Z /44

O P 121841Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175731

FOR UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS ON ILLEGAL OPIUM PRODUCTION IN
PAKISTAN

REF: NEW DELHI 10585

1. BACKGROUND: ILLEGAL OPIUM PRODUCTION IN PAKISTAN IS SHARPLY INCREASING. ACCORDING TO CAREFUL ESTIMATES OF EM-BASSY ISLAMABAD, 1977-78 PRODUCTION WAS 400 TO 600 TONS, MAKING PAKISTAN THE WORLD'S LARGEST ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCER (GOP ESTIMATES OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTION ARE FAR LOWER). MOST PAKISTANI PRODUCED OPIUM COMES FROM AREAS OF THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP) WHERE NEITHER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT NOR THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS EFFECTIVE CONTROL. NEVERTHELESS, THE GOP HAS NOT SHOWN MUCH CONCERN ABOUT THE PROBLEM NOR DEMONSTRATED THE WILL TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT
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POPPY CULTIVATION IN SETTLED AREAS. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THE GOP DID RAID AN ILLICIT HEROIN LAB IN THE NWFP AND ANOTHER IN LAHORE. PETER BOURNE AND MATHEA FALCO RECENTLY DISCUSSED THE PAKISTAN OPIUM PROBLEM AT SOME LENGTH WITH AMBASSADOR YAQUB KHAN IN WASHINGTON (STATE 165454).

2. U.S. ASSISTANCE: THE USG FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS HAS

WORKED WITH THE GOP ON THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. WE CURRENTLY

HAVE FIVE DEA AGENTS POSTED IN PAKISTAN. WE WERE INSTRUMENTAL SOME YEARS AGO IN THE CREATION OF THE PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (PNCB), WHICH IS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BODY PRIMARILY TASKED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL. HOWEVER, DUE TO A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS, THE PNCB HAS NEVER BEEN A VERY EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION. CHAIRMAN OF THE PNCB, RAOOF ALI IS PRESENTLY IN THE U.S. ON A SENIOR EXECUTIVE OBSERVATION PROGRAM, DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR HIM AND HIS PARTICULAR INTERESTS. WE ARE ALSO WORKING WITH PAKISTAN CUSTOMS AND WITH PROVINCIAL EXISE AND TAXATION DEPARTMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN KARACHI, WHERE THE DEA OFFICE IS CONCENTRATING ON TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

3. UN ACTIVITIES: IN MAY 1976 AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN UNFDAC AND THE GOP FOR A THREE-YEAR NARCOTICS PROGRAM TOTALING APPROXIMATELY DOL 3 MILLION. THE PROGRAM INCLUDES AN INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROJECT, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

4. TALKING POINTS: WE DID NOT INCLUDE TALKING POINTS ON NARCOTICS IN THE PAKISTAN SCOPE PAPER SINCE WE FELT THAT THE CIRCUIT WAS OVERLOADED WITH OTHER PROBLEMS. WE
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SUGGEST YOU CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR HUMMEL FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND ON THIS ISSUE. (ALSO SEE BACKGROUND PAPER ON OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES.) THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ARE PROVIDED FOR USE AT YOUR DISCRETION.

-- WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASED POPPY PRODUCTION IN PAKISTAN AND THE FACT THAT PAKISTAN IS NOW ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING PRODUCERS OF ILLICIT OPIUM. RAW OPIUM, MORPHINE BASE AND HEROIN OF PAKISTANI ORIGIN ARE ALREADY SHOWING UP IN THE EUROPEAN AND FAR EASTERN MARKETS AND MAY HAVE REACHED THE UNITED STATES.

-- NARCOTICS ADDICTION IS A WORLDWIDE SCOURGE WHICH CAUSES IMMENSE HUMAN SUFFERING. THERE ARE NO EASY SOLUTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WE WANT TO CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN OUR COOPERATION WITH THE GOP AND THE UN TO REDUCE OPIUM CULTIVATION AND TRAFFICKING.

-- IF THE GOP IS INTERESTED IN DRAWING UP AN INTERGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE NWFP AND ADJACENT AREAS OF BALUCHISTAN, WE WOULD HOPE THAT IT MIGHT INCLUDE IN SUCH A PLAN INCENTIVES AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES TO REDUCE

POPPY CULTIVATION IN THESE AREAS. (SEE SCOPE PAPER PAGE 7).
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE175731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JACCOON:DLD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780286-0013
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780768/aaaacfd.r.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9bd77e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 10585
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2032082
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALKING POINTS ON ILLEGAL OPIUM PRODUCTION IN PAKISTAN
TAGS: SNAR, PK, US
To: KABUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9bd77e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014